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ASSISTANT:

Brenda M. Hoffmann, B.A.A.
Michigan State Police
Richmond Post #24

Dear Chairman Schmidt and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this body and relay the perspective of the Thin Blue Line of Michigan. My name is Scott Reinacher. I am the President of The Thin Blue Line of Michigan. I served more than twenty-five years in the Michigan State Police, serving in Erie, Detroit, Brighton and Lansing.

Prior to my retirement from the State Police, I served as the President and Vice President of the Michigan State Police Troopers Association. Additionally, I served as the Chairman of the National Troopers Coalition which represents more than 40,000 State Troopers across the nation.

The Thin Blue Line of Michigan is a charitable non profit organization which exists solely to assist and support the families of injured or deceased public safety officers within the State of Michigan. The Thin Blue Line aids families with financial, emotional, physical, through benefit recovery and medical needs that arise upon the occasion of an officer's injury or death.

The numbers of Public Safety Personnel in Michigan which includes law enforcement, Firefighters, corrections, dispatchers, EMS, EMT, Court Officers, Administrators, Reserve Officers and Volunteers are more than 100,000 persons.

The frequency of Public Safety Officers death and injury is reported in the below listed statistics. Nationally statistics indicate a Line of Duty Death of a Police Officer occurs every 57 hours. However, last year there more than 58,000 assaults of Police Officers, more than 15,000 injuries were reported, and most recent national Bureau of Labor Statistics identify more than 16,000 Fire Fighter injuries occur on average. Many of these Officers who are injured will never return to work due to the seriousness of their injuries.

In many cases the Thin Blue Line provides financial assistance to officers and their families from the moment they are injured. Many of these officers begin to lose income immediately. Public Safety compensation and benefit recovery in Michigan is like fingerprints. Every agency is different.

The Thin Blue Line was originally founded to assist Michigan's law enforcement community, however, as the organization celebrates its Fifteen years of service it has expanded to include all public safety officers in this great State of Michigan.

The passage of HB-5245 will provide the necessary funds to help Michigan's Public Safety Officers and their families when in need. The Thin Blue Line of Michigan will utilize the raised funds from this fund-raising license plate to continue it mission. Your prompt action, support and assistance in passing HB-5245 will not be overlooked or forgotten by Michigan's Public Safety Community.

Thank you for the time and for allowing me to present this critical information to your committee.

Scott L. Reinacher
President

received
11.11.13

Thin Blue Line of Michigan

Questionnaire

Due: Appreciated as soon as possible

1.) Under what circumstances did you come to know about the Thin Blue Line of Michigan?

AFTER A TRAGIC FIRE IN DETROIT
AUG 13, 2010 YOU STEPPED UP TO HELP
OUR INJURED

2.) How did you first hear about the Thin Blue Line of Michigan?

Same

3.) Was your first contact with a Thin Blue Line of Michigan Representative a positive one? Please explain:

yes

4.) Upon meeting in person or by telephone with the Thin Blue Line of Michigan Representative did you feel that the organization could help you in your situation, and if so, what was your reaction to our assistance?

yes HELPED A LOT

5.) What were some of the benefits that you were able to receive; financial, emotional, legal services, please explain:

JUST KNOWING YOU
ARE THERE FOR US WHEN OTHERS ARE NOT.

6.) In which ways did the Thin Blue Line of Michigan reach or exceed your expectations? The whole org.

7.) If your needs were not met, how could the Thin Blue Line of Michigan meet those needs?

8.) Has the assistance of the Thin Blue Line of Michigan been beneficial in your time of need? Explain: Yes, financial help

9.) In the future, would you be willing to appear or assist with Thin Blue Line of Michigan fund raisers or informational meetings to speak on behalf of the organization? Please identify your level of involvement if yes: Yes

10.) Have you informed others of the Thin Blue Line of Michigan organization and its mission and purpose? Yes, but some info to give + leave at DFD Firehouses would help spread the word.

11.) In your opinion how can the Thin Blue Line of Michigan organization improve to assist future officers and their families?

12.) In your opinion, is the Thin Blue Line of Michigan organization a valuable instrument to the law enforcement community and its officers and families? Please explain why: yes

13.) Would you recommend this organization and its purpose to other officers or families in need? Explain: XJ

I, Jeff Urbus grant permission to the Thin Blue Line of Michigan to use my name and that of the department that I represent in a published brochure.

I, Jeff Urbus chose to participate in the completion of this questionnaire, but wish to remain anonymous in any publication.

Fire Fighter Jeff Urbus, Detroit F.D.

Thin Blue Line of Michigan

Questionnaire

Due: Appreciated as soon as possible



1.) Under what circumstances did you come to know about the Thin Blue Line of Michigan?

I WAS INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY IN A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT.
I AM A POLICE OFFICER AT THE REDFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
AND MY LOCAL UNION IS A MEMBER OF THE POAM AND ALSO THE
THIN BLUE LINE OF MICHIGAN.

2.) How did you first hear about the Thin Blue Line of Michigan?

I KNEW I WAS A THIN BLUE LINE MEMBER THROUGH THE LOCAL POA BUT
I DID NOT THINK TO CALL THE THIN BLUE LINE UNTIL URGED TO DO SO
BY MY UNION PRESIDENT, OFFICER ERIC NORMAN, I CALLED THE THIN
BLUE LINE FOR ASSISTANCE, POSSIBLY THE BEST ACTION I COULD HAVE TAKEN.

3.) Was your first contact with a Thin Blue Line of Michigan Representative a positive one? Please explain:

I FIRST MET WITH TBL REPRESENTATIVES SCOTT AND LAURIE REINACHER.
I HAD NUMEROUS CONCERNS ABOUT MEDICAL, FINANCIAL AND WORK-RELATED
ISSUES, I WAS PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY DRAINED FROM MY INJURY.
SCOTT AND LAURIE WERE GREAT, THEY LISTENED TO MY STORY, THEN
HELPED ME DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION. I REALLY NEEDED THEIR HELP, THEY WERE GREAT!

4.) Upon meeting in person or by telephone with the Thin Blue Line of Michigan Representative did you feel that the organization could help you in your situation, and if so, what was your reaction to our assistance?

MOST OF MY DEALING WITH THE THIN BLUE LINE WAS THROUGH LAURIE REINACHER.
SHE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY EVERY ASPECT OF ISSUES (WORK, MEDICAL, LEGAL, ETC.)
I WAS NAVIGATING THROUGH. THROUGH SOME TOUGH EXPERIENCES I HAVE LEARNED
DEVELOPING TRUST IS DIFFICULT, BUT LAURIE WAS VERY REASSURING, SHE EXPLAINED
HOW THE THIN BLUE LINE COULD HELP ME AND MY FAMILY. I FELT A GREAT SENSE OF
RELIEF AND THANKFULNESS.

5.) What were some of the benefits that you were able to receive; financial, emotional, legal services, please explain: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE TBL
KEPT MY FAMILY ABOVE WATER, AND LAURIE'S ADVICE WITH LEGAL, MEDICAL
AND WORK RELATED ISSUES WAS ESSENTIAL IN DEALING WITH THE ENTIRE
SITUATION EMOTIONALLY.

6.) In which ways did the Thin Blue Line of Michigan reach or exceed your expectations?

FINANCIAL SUPPORT WAS VERY MUCH NEEDED AND GREATLY APPRECIATED. ADVICE ON DEALING WITH WORKERS COMP/INSURANCE COMPANIES / EMPLOYER WAS VERY HELPFUL. EVERY BIT OF ASSISTANCE I RECEIVED FROM THE TBL DID REACH, AND USUALLY EXCEEDED, ANY EXPECTATIONS I HAD.

7.) If your needs were not met, how could the Thin Blue Line of Michigan meet those needs? N/A

8.) Has the assistance of the Thin Blue Line of Michigan been beneficial in your time of need? Explain: YES, THE TBL PROVIDED FINANCIAL RELIEF, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, AND MUCH NEEDED ADVICE CONCERNING MY RIGHTS AS AN INJURED EMPLOYEE AND DEALING WITH MEDICAL FACILITIES, INSURANCE COMPANIES AND MY EMPLOYER. THE THIN BLUE LINES ASSISTANCE TO ME AND MY FAMILY WAS AN ABSOLUTE BLESSING!

9.) In the future, would you be willing to appear or assist with Thin Blue Line of Michigan fund raisers or informational meetings to speak on behalf of the organization? Please identify your level of involvement if yes:

YES, I WOULD CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE TO BE INVOLVED AND/OR ASSIST WITH WHATEVER THE THIN BLUE LINE MIGHT NEED. THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT THE THIN BLUE LINE THE MORE I AM IMPRESSED.

10.) Have you informed others of the Thin Blue Line of Michigan organization and its mission and purpose? YES, MY FAMILY, MEMBERS OF MY LOCAL POLICE AND ANYONE ELSE WHO WILL LISTEN.

11.) In your opinion how can the Thin Blue Line of Michigan organization improve to assist future officers and their families? JUST MAKE SURE THEY ARE AWARE OF ALL YOU DO AND THE SERVICES YOU PROVIDE. I LEARNED

THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION REALLY CARES ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL OFFICER AND HIS / HER FAMILY - THAT FACT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME, THANK YOU AGAIN!

12.) In your opinion, is the Thin Blue Line of Michigan organization a valuable instrument to the law enforcement community and its officers and families? Please explain why: YES, THE TBL PROVIDES SERVICES AND SUPPORT OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES NEED IN GOOD TIMES...AND BAD. THERE ARE NO STRINGS ATTACHED, YOU CARE ABOUT US FIRST, THE INSURANCE COMPANIES / DOCTORS / EMPLOYERS / ETC. ALL HAVE OTHER AGENDAS, THAT IS A TOUGH PILL FOR OFFICERS TO SWALLOW (WAS FOR ME...).

13.) Would you recommend this organization and its purpose to other officers or families in need? Explain:

YES, THE TBL WAS THERE FOR ME AND MY FAMILY WHEN I NEEDED YOU MOST. YOURS IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION (I AM AWARE OF) WHERE THE SOLE MISSION IS TO TAKE CARE OF OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. GOD BLESS THE THIN BLUE LINE OF MICHIGAN AND ALL YOU DO FOR US!

I, JOHN BUTLER grant permission to the Thin Blue Line of Michigan to use my name and that of the department that I represent in a published brochure.

I, _____ chose to participate in the completion of this questionnaire, but wish to remain anonymous in any publication.

Redford Township PD.

Thin Blue Line
of Michigan

The Thin Blue
Line of Michigan
welcomes its
newest payroll
donation
Members!



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Succor

PLEASE POST ON BULLETIN OR IN BRIEFING

Succor: To provide or give assistance in time of hardship or distress.

Volume 9

Issue 1



In Memory of Officer Bobby “Koz” minski

During the early morning hours of Sunday July 8, 2007 the Grand Rapids Police Department and the community that they served lived every police agencies worse nightmare. A dedicated, experienced and beloved officer, Robert Kozminski was murdered in the line of duty.

Officer Kozminski had a selfless desire to serve his community. He was finishing a police run when a call for assistance was requested in a domestic violence investigation with threats against the family members. The suspect was known to be armed and was threatening harm against the family. Unbeknown to the officers responding to the call the suspect was preparing to ambush them as they arrived.

Shortly after his arrival Officer Kozminski was fatally shot and killed while searching for the armed gunman. Officer Kozminski's death both shattered the community and scarred the department.

The Grand Rapids Police Department like so many police departments before attempted to cope with the insurmountable tasks of mourning the loss of a fallen comrade, grieve and prepare to honor “Koz” and his family, especially his precious daughter Kailey.

It was not the planning of the funeral or the day to day operations that members of the Grand Rapids Police Department strug-

gled with. The Police Department with the help of surrounding agencies was able to plan and orchestrate an honorable ceremony witnessed by more than a thousand sworn and uniformed officers.

A call was placed to the Thin Blue Line of Michigan for assistance for the family and Kailey. The chaotic days immediately following the death of Officer Kozminski were guided by the experienced Case Managers of the Thin Blue Line of Michigan. The organization's knowledge, education, experience and certifications brought calm and stability to the surviving family and to the members of the Grand Rapids Police Department personnel assigned to the family.

The department and the family were seeking guidance about the benefits available for Officer Kozminski's three year old daughter, Kailey. The Thin Blue Line of Michigan has either filed or assisted in the recovery of more than 32 Line of Duty death benefits for Officer's families in the State of Michigan. In addition other states in the Midwest have requested assistance with Federal PSOB Appeals Hearings with the Thin Blue Line of Michigan successfully recovering the entitled benefits. Both Grand Rapids P.D. and the family have faith in the Thin Blue Line of Michigan's knowledge and experience. It is this expertise that separates the Thin Blue Line of Michigan from any other organization in the country. “The actions taken in the re-

covery and distribution of benefits were ironed out quickly and professionally”, said Captain Kurt VanderKooi.

More importantly up to eighteen months later the Thin Blue Line of Michigan is still monitoring benefits, taking care of recent legal matters including probate court filings and hearings for Officer Kozminski's daughter, Kailey.

The Kozminski family and members of the Grand Rapids Police Department greatly appreciate the efforts put forth by the Thin Blue Line of Michigan in assisting both the department and the family during this tragic time. It is not through headlines or self promotion that motivates this organization to offer assistance or its services. “It is the knowledge that the fallen officer is honored and their family receive everything in which they are entitled too that makes the Thin Blue Line of Michigan a successful organization for Michigan's Public Safety community”, states Lt. Eric Payne of Grand Rapids Police Department.

The Thin Blue Line of Michigan wants to thank the City of Grand Rapids, the businesses and the community for the support they have provided and their continued support for the surviving family. The compassionate spirit of the Grand Rapids community for the Kozminski Family and the Grand Rapids Police Department doesn't go unrecognized.



Testimonial

Without the Thin Blue Line of Michigan there is a large chance that my daughter and I would not have received the benefits that we were entitled to as we did not know about them.

Overall the Thin Blue Line of Michigan is just great people with very true hearts. I know that any time I need them they are available day or night and that they will continue to be there even in the years to come.

Heather Cosgrove,
Mother of Kailey Kozminski



The Thin Blue Line of Michigan recognizes with sincere gratitude the many active payroll do- nation members who support this organization. Your contri- butions to this organization al- low us to provide services and assistance to those officers and their families in need. These members who support this or- ganization should take pride in themselves and their depart- ments for making this support and services possible.

By taking care of others, we take care of ourselves!

the recovery of benefits that we were entitled too but had not yet received. They also assisted with Social Security and other financial issues to help us purchase a home. The organization also provided fi- nancial and tax experts to assist in cost effective and efficient filings.

“The Thin Blue Line of Michigan provided sound advice and assis- tance to my daughter Heather! This organization is a tool that GOD uses to take care of his children”

Grandfather to Kailey Kozminski

The Thin Blue Line exceeded and continues to exceed my expecta- tions in every way possible. They don't just say they want to help, they do! Without them I would be lost.

I came to know about the Thin Blue Line of Michigan when my daughter's father, Officer Robert “Koz” Kozminski was killed in the line of duty on July 8th, 2007. My first contact with the Thin Blue Line of Michigan was more than positive. For days people kept telling me that my daughter and I would be okay, but it was not until I met with the representatives from the Thin Blue Line of Michigan that I actually saw hope. I felt like God had sent us Angels!

The Thin Blue Line helped us more than I could ever have imagined. They opened and managed a restricted account for all of the donations made in memory and in honor of “Koz” within hours of his death, kept me informed of the account and filed for all benefits both on the state, federal and local levels in regard to his death for our daughter.

They filed for and continue to file all paperwork for Probate Court in addition to meeting with the judge on several occa- sions to insure the paperwork was done correctly and that my daughter and I would be taken care of.

Legal services were provided to me and my daughter to assist in